

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 30
By Dunn

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study the feasibility of merging the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service and the Tennessee State University Cooperative Agricultural Extension Service.

WHEREAS, presently the State of Tennessee funds and operates two separate and distinct agricultural extension services; and

WHEREAS, these two separate and distinct programs, The Agricultural Extension Service administered by the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and the Cooperative Agricultural Extension Service administered by Tennessee State University, perform essentially the same duties; both entities provide citizens with research-based information on agriculture, community resource development and home economics; and

WHEREAS, the existence of two state agencies performing essentially the same functions is directly attributable to the federal legislation that established the two land grant universities and provided for the funding of two separate agriculture programs at both the state and federal levels; however federal law requires the existence of only one agricultural extension service in each state; and

WHEREAS, while the respective extension services perform their appointed duties with the utmost expertise, dedication and alacrity and while the two entities have greatly expanded their cooperative efforts by identifying new ways in which to meet agriculture program needs in

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Tennessee, a merger of the two programs would effect a great savings in administrative and other costs for state government, as duplicative services and functions would be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, during these times of economic austerity in state government, this General Assembly should thoroughly investigate any potential ways and means to reduce state expenditures by eliminating duplicative services and functions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study the feasibility of merging the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service and the Tennessee State University Cooperative Agricultural Extension Service into one state entity performing the same functions and providing the same services as the two present programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the One Hundredth General Assembly no later than February 1, 1998, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

